



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORATE FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SECURITY REVIEW
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

12 AUG 1998
Ref: 95-F-0855


Mr. Allen Keesee
POTOMAC PARTNERS GROUP INC.
2901 Que Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Mr. Keesee:

This responds to your July 5, 1990, Freedom of Information Act request, filed with the Department of State and referred, with documents to this Directorate, for release determination and response directly to you. The referral was received April 15, 1995.

The enclosed documents are provided as responsive to your request. There are no processing charges for your request in this instance.

Sincerely,



A. H. Passarella
Director

Enclosures:
As stated



#933

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

Copies to;

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Mil Rep
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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Assessment of NVA/VC Capabilities in Cambodia

Bill:

On March 30, during one of my periodic meetings with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I asked for an assessment of the NVA/VC capability to attack, seize, and maintain control over Phnom Penh. Attached is a response provided by the Chiefs. The paper, I understand, was prepared by the Defense Intelligence Agency and coordinated with the Central Intelligence Agency. It occurred to me you might find the paper of interest.

Attachment

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Declassified on 8 Jan 98
Declassified by Dep Exec Sec

Sec Def Cont Nr.

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Defense Dept

PL 23-9 CMB

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~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~ LADIS
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

CM-5011-70
2 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: An Assessment of NVA/VC Capabilities in
Cambodia (S)

On 30 March 1970, during a discussion of the situation in Cambodia, you expressed interest in an assessment of the capabilities of the NVA/VC Forces based in Cambodia to attack, seize and maintain control over Phnom Penh. The Enclosure, prepared by the Defense Intelligence Agency and coordinated with the Central Intelligence Agency, provides an assessment of those capabilities plus other possible courses of action available to the enemy.

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment
a/s

GROUP 3
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

Declassified by Joint Staff
Date 9 JAN 98
EFMS/ndc

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THREAT ASSESSMENT OF VC/NVA FORCES
TO MOVE AGAINST PHNOM PENH

BACKGROUND:

On 30 October First Deputy Prime Minister Sirik Matak assumed the reins of government when Lon Nol departed for Paris. During November and December Matak gradually increased his control of the government. In December the resignations of three pro-Sihanouk cabinet members were accepted by Matak. On 6 January Sihanouk departed for France while Matak continued to reduce Sihanouk's authority. Lon Nol returned to Cambodia in late February. On 8 March anti-Communist demonstrations started in Svay Rieng Province and on 11 March the NVN and PRG Embassies were sacked. Lon Nol, on 12 March gave VC/NVA units until 15 March to leave Cambodia. Sihanouk in Paris denounced the sackings and blamed rightist elements for such action. He headed for home by way of Moscow and Peking. The National Assembly voted 92-0 to remove Sihanouk on 18 March and replace him with Cheng Heng as Chief of State. Sihanouk was in Moscow. Sihanouk proceeded to Peking, where on 23 March he issued his five-point plan. From 25 thru 29 March pro-Sihanouk demonstrations were held in eastern frontiers region and it was necessary for the Cambodian Government to quell them by force. On 27 March the NVN and PRG suspended relations with Cambodia and severed negotiations with Cambodia on the withdrawal of NVA troops. Lon Nol has requested the ICC be reactivated. On 30 March the Cambodian Charge d'Affairs at the UN notified U Thant of the situation in Cambodia.

Information on 29 March indicated the VC/NVA were particularly active in movement along the Cambodian/SVN border. Reports have indicated several small Cambodian outposts have been taken by VC/NVA. VC/NVA forces attacked and occupied a Cambodian military post near the border at Ang Kenh on 29 March 1970. The defending forces withdrew without losses.

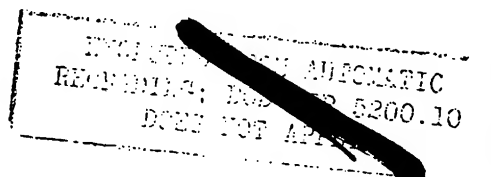
Now, as of 31 March, what is the assessment of the threat of the VC/NVA forces to move against Phnom Penh?

ASSESSMENT:

In this confused and critical situation the Communists and Sihanouk have a number of options available among which are:

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Defense Intelligence Agency
By KAA-1 Date 23 JUNE 98

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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AUG 17 1973

The Honorable William P. Rogers
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Bill:

As you know, Tom Moorer and I have recently appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss activities in Southeast Asia. I found this committee, and particularly Senator Symington, responsive and sincerely interested in the facts as we view them. I believe that we have a basis for establishing the logic and need for our actions and hopefully obtaining the support of this committee.

During the course of this appearance, Senator Symington expressed particular interest in our relationships with the Sihanouk government, their impact on the strict security controls exercised for the MENU operations, the circumstances surrounding the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk and Prince Sihanouk's position with respect to the MENU operations. I have enclosed an excerpt from the transcript of these hearings so that you can better identify Senator Symington's specific interest.

There is little information in the DoD on either one of these questions. I would very much appreciate any information that you could provide, or suggestions you might have, so that our answers can be as responsive and accurate as possible.

Sincerely,

Bill Clements

Enclosure